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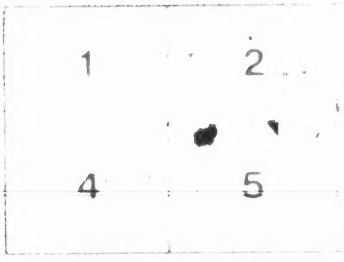
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A

BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE

LATE REVIVALS OF RELIGION

IN A NUMBER OF TOWNS IN THE

New-England States,

AND ALSO IN

NOVA-SCOTIA.

EXTRACTED CHIEFLY FROM LETTERS WRITTEN BY SEVERAL GENTLEMEN OF UNQUESTIONABLE VERACITY.

To which is added,

A VERY INTERESTING LETTER,

From a MINISTER in *London* to his FRIEND in *Maſſachuſetts.*

6411
12/80
1870

BOSTON:
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Sept. 1799.

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A BRIEF ACCOUNT, &c.

EXTRACT 1. *Mr. S—— W——, of Windham, in Connecticut, thus writes to his friend in Boston.*

Windham, Oct. 2, 1798.

Rev. and dear Sir,

YOU will pardon me for using the freedom to trouble you with a line from so unworthy, though sincere friend. It is a time of general health in these parts; but this is not the best news I shall acquaint you with: for "as cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."—God is carrying on a glorious work in several towns in these parts. The work began in Mansfield, first society, about five or six months ago, in a very gradual manner; but soon took a very rapid spread in the west part of the town. A sermon preached in that neighbourhood at a funeral, by the Rev. Mr. Shearman, was greatly blessed. The Spirit of the Lord seemed to sweep all before it like an overflowing flood, though with very little noise or crying out. It is wonderful to see the surprising alteration in that people in so short a time. I conclude there are not less than an hundred souls converted in that town since the work began. Soon after, it began in Hampton, but did not spread with that degree of rapidity as it did in Mansfield. The same happy work has lately taken place in Ashford, in the Rev. Mr. Pond's society, with a good degree of power. It has also spread into the second society in Mansfield, under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. Welsh; also in the upper part of Canterbury, and lately in Abington society in Pomfret.

Dear sir, we may say, in the midst of judgment God is showing himself marvellously good and kind; and as it seemed our land, a few months ago, was fully ripe for destruction, and the hot thunderbolts of divine wrath were hanging over our heads, yet God has made a rich display of his grace, in the conversion of so many souls. One thing is remarkable in this reformation, there is such evidence carried in the work, that none, or but very few dare to oppose it.

Bigotry, which was so common between the Standing Order (Congregationalists) and the Dissenters, is done away.—This work is chiefly among the Standing Order.

EXTRACT 2. *Containing a further account of the same work, in a letter from the Rev. E—— P—— to his Parents, dated Ashford, September 24, 1798.*

Honored Parents,

I MUST inform you of the work of God, which is going on in these parts. Early in May, an attention began in the first society in Mansfield, which increased to a great degree, so as to become general. It then began in Hampton, and is as general as in Mansfield. About four weeks since, it began here, and, for the time, has spread very fast; so that about eighty have been under great concern: Of this number, nearly twenty have a hope that they have been "born again." The work seems to be spreading. In one family of my people who have only three little daughters, the eldest fifteen years old, they all give evidence that they have been born again! The work has also began in Mr. Welsh's society in Mansfield; and the prospects are very favourable in Westford.——Do unite in prayer to God; if only two or three, don't omit it, that God would pour out his Spirit upon you. This seems to have been the beginning of the work in Mansfield.

EXTRACT 3. *Containing an account of the beginning of the reformation in Hartford, in a letter from the Rev. S—— S. N——, of that City, to his friend in Boston, dated January 14, 1799.*

Rev. and dear Sir,

——A GLORIOUS revival of religion has lately taken place among us. Two of my brothers-in-law, the youngest about 12 years old, and the other fourteen, had been under deep conviction at times, for several weeks before our last Thanksgiving; and on that day, whilst I was preaching, the youngest was brought out clear in his mind, and went home with his little soul overflowing with joy. This affected the whole family; several of whom we

truſt, could rejoice with him ; all the reſt were much alarmed, and led to cry out under pungent conviction, " What ſhall we do to be ſaved ?" From this it has ſpread from houſe to houſe, and from heart to heart, till almoſt the whole City has got alarmed.

I think as many as 15 or 20 have been hopefully converted ; many more are under painful convictions, and the work ſtill ſpreading. It has alſo extended its happy influence among the other denominations, and they open conferences, and welcome its approach.

We have meetings almoſt every evening in the week. Here is ſurely a Macedonian cry, " Do come over and help us."

EXTRACT 4. *Containing a further account of the ſame work, in a letter from the Rev. J—— B——, dated at Trumbull, February 6, 1799, to his friend at Newbury-Port.*

My dear friend and brother,

THROUGH the kind hand of God, I arrived here yeſterday. I ſtopped at Hartford, and preached five ſermons.

The ſpirit of hearing at Hartford is greater than any repreſentations which have been made. Young people of both ſexes flock by hundreds, and the proſpect is flattering in the extreme. Conference meetings are held every night in different private houſes. In Mr. Strong's ſociety, 60 are thought to be under conviction, and 20 have been hopefully brought into goſpel liberty. In Mr. Nelſon's 30, and ſome in Mr. Flint's.

The youth hold correſpondence one with another by letter, and with thoſe of the neighbouring towns. Hundreds are under ſome ſerious concern, while hundreds more ſtand aſtoniſhed, and are ready to cry, " *What meaneth* all *this ?*"

The Lord ſeems to have ſtepped out of the uſual path of Ordinances, to effect this work more immediately in the diſplays of his almighty power and out-pouring of his Spirit ; probably to ſhow that the work is his own. It is not attended with noiſe and confuſion, but with ſolemnity and reverence. No fire ; no ruſhing wind ; no earthquake : but a ſtill ſmall voice goes before this wonderful work ; no doubt,

to hide pride from man. The miniſters are ſtirred up to uncommon diligence and labour, ſo that they have ſcarcely time to prepare for public exerciſes.

The ſacred flame has ſpread into many neighboring towns,* and the pious are flocking into Hartford to be eye-witneſſes of this glorious work. I have felt myſelf ſo much engaged in preaching, viſiting and converſing with old and young, that my attention has been literally taken off from Wife, Children, Flock, and bodily infirmities. O that my paſt time had been better employed and filled than it has been. Should my health be continued, I hope, by the grace of God, to ſpend my ſtrength wholly in the Lord's cauſe, which carries its own reward with it.

Two hundred miles N. W. of Hartford, on the border of the Indian nations, I am informed that the Lord is pouring out his ſpirit plentifully. The Aborigines flock to hear the goſpel, and fall under the word like Dagon before the Ark. I have ſeen a preacher from thoſe parts, who gives the moſt flattering accounts, and informs, that very large numbers have been added to the churches in that vicinity the laſt year.

After ſermon was finiſhed upon a late occaſion in the woods, an Indian ſtood up with tears in his eyes, and thus addreſſed the audience: "I deſire to bleſs God, that white people ever came into this country. White people brought the bible, and the religion of Jeſus with them. White people prayed for the converſion of the heathen, and I ſtand up this day as a living witneſs of the power of God's converting grace *in anſwer to their prayers*. Continue to pray for the converſion of more heathens, that they alſo may be brought to the knowledge of Jeſus."

EXTRACT 5. *Rev. C—— B——, of Shaftſbury, in Vermont, gives the following particulars of the reformation in that town.*

Rev. Sir, Feb. 21, 1799.

I AM ſenſible that under too great a degree of animation, even Chriſtians too often exaggerate their accounts of revivals of religion. But I will attempt a ſimple, but ſhort narrative of the late wonderful work of God in this place.

* It is mentioned in a letter from a reſpectable character in Hartford, of April 25, that it has ſpread into nearly one hundred towns.

In the month of April last, there appeared nothing among this people but the most rapid increase of every species of vice and immorality; and even professors had grown cold as to religious exercises.

Towards the last of that month, it pleased God to visit my poor soul with some sense of my own vileness and short comings, and how little I had done for God and the good of souls. At this time I think I had a glimpse of the infinite character of Jehovah, which made me shrink into nothing in my own esteem; then, to my astonishment, my soul was strangely drawn forth, at particular times, in secret prayer, for the salvation of sinners. Repeated exercises of this kind gave me a strong confidence, that the Lord would soon work salvation in this place. There were, however, no favourable symptoms among the people until the month of July; then a young woman, who had been converted some years before, was stirred up, and came forward in baptism. Her conversion was made the mean of the awakening of a number of young people. Thus the work began. In August, four persons more were baptized. In September, I baptized seventeen. Many were awakened by the solemnity of this ordinance. (Indeed I think there was no one mean more blessed for the conviction of sinners, through the whole course of this work, than the administration of baptism.) But to return; we as yet held our church conferences, to hear the relations of candidates, but once a month. At the close of October, we were obliged to attend two days, and then were not able to hear all that wished to relate. The next Lord's-day was a severe storm; baptism was omitted: The church attended two days of that week also, to hear the young converts declare what the Lord had done for them. I was then under the necessity to call for assistance in administering baptism. Accordingly, brother Samuel Rogers attended the next Sabbath, and we baptized 46 that day. We then found it necessary to hold our church conferences to hear relations once a week. The next Sabbath I baptized 21; the next 16; the next 13; the next 9; and there have been but a few weeks since, that I have not been called to the precious work of baptizing. Zion's gates were truly then thronged with converts!

The whole number added to this church, since last May, is 175; 25 by letter and other ways; and 150 by baptism. Our whole number is 346. Many of this number are remov-

ed into different parts of the country; there are, however, nearly 300 that live in this vicinity, the remoteſt of them not more than ſix miles from our meeting-houſe.

There have alſo been 70 added to the Weſt church in this town ſince the work began; and 13 to the Eaſt church.

As to the principal means by which this work has been carried on, I muſt ſay, that no one's little or great preaching can juſtly lay any claim to the honours of it. Several brethren in the miniſtry have viſited us in the time, and all of them were bleſſed in their labours. A brother Jones, from England, was an inſtrument for the awakening of ſeveral.

I have been filled with wonder and aſtoniſhment, to ſee how the Lord has been pleaſed to preſerve ſome of almoſt all the preaching that has been in this town ſince I have been here. Even when I had mourned and thought I had laboured in vain, and that my preaching was as water ſpilt upon a rock; the Lord has now made known that he deſigned it for the good of ſouls. O my brother, let us never be diſcouraged; we cannot always tell when our labours are bleſſed. I cannot ſay how many, but the Lord has made my poor weak efforts the means of awakening a conſiderable number. But the greateſt part of the people have been awakened by attending the ſolemnity of baptiſm, and by converſation one with another.—Indeed, the moſt that I can ſay is, It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

There has not in years paſt been the moſt cordial fellowſhip between the three churches in this town; but the Lord has now effected a happy union between us. On the laſt Lord's-day in January, we all met at one communion table. That happy day my ſoul had deſired for years. Nothing but experience could have made me believe it poſſible, that I could have felt ſo much ſolid delight, anticipated ſo much trouble, and rejoiced with ſo much trembling, at one and the ſame time. That day I truſt will never be forgotten by me.

The north part of Bennington, which lies ſouth of us, has ſhared conſiderably in this grace, and have joined with the churches in this town, and ſome few members from the town north of us; but the greateſt part that have been wrought upon are within this town, which is ſix miles ſquare.

In about two months after the work began, the whole town ſeemed to be affected. Conference meetings were attended two or three times in a week in almoſt every neighbourhood; and it was ſurpriſing to me, that ſcarcely a ſingle

instance appeared of any over-heated zeal, or flight of paſſion! Both ſinners under conviction, and thoſe newly brought into the liberty of the goſpel, converſed in their meetings with the greateſt freedom; they ſpake one at a time a few words, in the moſt ſolemn manner I ever heard people in my life. And in general they ſpake ſo low, that their aſſemblies muſt be perfectly ſtill, or they could not hear them: Yet a remarkable power attended their converſation. Sinners would tremble as though they felt themſelves in the immediate preſence of the great Jehovah.

Some of all ranks and characters among us have been taken; from the moſt reſpectable members of ſociety, to the vileſt in the place. Some of our moſt noted Deiſts have bowed the knee to King Jeſus. And a number of Univerſaliſts have forſaken their deluſions, and embraced the truth.

In the revival four years ago laſt ſummer, we then received ten children into the church, aged from nine to thirteen years, with a number of other young people; all of them remain in good ſtanding with us, and are now able to help others; excepting one, who, I truſt, is gone to the church triumphant. In this revival we have received ſixteen whoſe ages are from nine to fifteen years. From nine, I have baptized ſome of almoſt every age to upwards of ſeventy!

We have now upwards of one hundred unmarried perſons in this church. There are alſo a large number of youths who have joined the other churches in this town. O my God! keep them in the love of the truth! My very ſoul trembles when I think of them. There is not a ſufficient number of young people now left in the town (who can unite) to carry on their merry meetings. Every company of them is broken up.

I lately enjoyed the happineſs of having upwards of ſeventy youths and children, that were profeſſors, to viſit and hold a conference at my houſe in one evening. You may gueſs, but it would be difficult to tell, with what a mixture of joy and trembling I was then filled.

The ſevereſt cold, ſnow and ice we have had this tedious winter, I have not heard once mentioned as any terror to the moſt delicate ladies, young or old, we have in the place; but they have cheerfully followed their Divine Redeemer into the liquid grave, without the leaſt intimidation.

As to myſelf, I think if ever I knew what it was to have extraordinary ſtrength, it has been within a few months paſt.

My lungs, which I had thought were on the decay, now seemed to renew their youth. Preaching three and four times a week, besides attending other meetings almost every day for months together, seemed very little if any to exhaust my strength. I think, of all men in the world, I have the greatest cause to be humble before God, for his abundant goodness bestowed upon a most unworthy wretch.

When I think of my own weakness and insufficiency, and the great number of young, inexperienced Christians committed to my charge, my heart shrinks within me; and I am ready to wish they had a more able and pious watchman to go before them. But all the hope I have is, that He who leadeth Joseph like a flock will gather the lambs in his arms, and gently lead his flock into the flowery fields of gospel truth, and beside the still waters of eternal life.

I sometimes anticipate so much trouble, that it quite absorbs my spirits, and drowns my joy. Then I think it best to rejoice while I can, and let to-morrow take thought for itself.

It is, however, a very interesting crisis with us; if we are faithful, and make a right improvement of the great mercies bestowed upon us, we may continue to be a happy people; if not, a series of trouble and sorrow await us. Dear brother, pray for us that we may be kept in the love of the truth; that the God of love and peace may ever dwell with us.

I must not indulge my feelings, I shall intrude upon your patience.

EXTRACT 6. *A gentleman in Pembroke thus writes to his friend in Boston.*

Pembroke, April 2, 1799.

Dear Sir,

GOD has been pleased to begin a glorious work in the first parish in Marshfield, and a few scattering drops in towns adjoining, although but a few as yet. O may we all be enabled to wrestle like Jacob and prevail like Israel. We need the prayers of all that have an interest at the throne of grace, that we may be kept from error and delusion. O may the time soon come, when the knowledge of God shall cover the earth, as the waters do the seas.

As to the present state of the reformation among us, there are between 30 and 40, in a judgment of charity, brought to the

knowledge of the truth; and more than that number appear to be under ſerious impreſſions of mind.

EXTRACT 7. *The Rev. P— P—— of Deer-Iſle, writes thus in a letter to his friend in Newbury-Port.*

Deer-Iſle, March 20, 1799.

Dear Brother,

IN your laſt letter to me, you wrote you had heard there was a reviſal of religion ſomewhere in theſe parts; and deſired me to give you an account of it.

In the beginning of June laſt, I was called to Mount-Deſert to adminiſter ſacraments to a church who have not a ſtated Paſtor, and tarried with them about nine days; when in the preaching of my ſecond Sermon, the glory of the Lord came down in a wonderful manner. One convicted, and hopefully converted under that Sermon was added to the Church about two days after, and three others who had before obtained a hope. Three months after this, I went again to adminiſter the Lord's Supper, at which time I admitted twenty-eight who had hopefully been brought home in the interval. The work of conviction was then going on powerfully in that town and ſpreading into thoſe adjoining on the ſame iſland. Our aſſociation had licenſed dear Mr. Ebenezer Eaton to preach, who improved his talent, labouring night and day among them, whom the Lord remarkably owned. How many have been brought out ſince I was there, I am not informed; but, according to the beſt accounts, there are many. The Lord multiply the number and add to the Church of ſuch as ſhall be ſaved.

I now come a little nearer home. In the beginning of winter, this glorious work began in Sedgwick, under the paſtoral care of the Rev. Daniel Merrill. Perhaps there hath not been a work ſo powerful, and ſo much like the work fifty-eight years ago. In a time of ſuch extraordinaries, it could not reaſonably be expected but ſome things would be a little wild and incoherent, conſidering the various tempers, infirmities and diſpoſitions of mankind: But I believe my young and dear brother Merrill, together with experienced Chriſtians were very careful to diſtinguiſh the precious from the vile—to correct errors, "to ſet the people in the way of hisſteps," ſo that there appears to be no prevalence of enthuſiaſm among them, according to the beſt information. How

great the number is of those who have been brought to hope, I am not able to give any tolerable good account: Some say there are about an hundred, others about double that number: I believe they are all very uncertain. Blessed be God, the work is yet going on there, though not with equal rapidity.

And now, dear Sir, let your imagination paint to your view the striking scene, of an hundred souls, men, women, and children, at the same time under the work of the law. The tears, sobs, groans and cries issuing from scores at a time! All the terrors of the law crowding and pressing in upon them; their sins, in infinite numbers and aggravations, staring them in the face; all their old vain hopes gone, and cut off, and every refuge failing! Hear them freely confessing their old abominations, their former enmity to the great doctrines of original sin, election, the sovereignty of divine, free grace, the power of God displayed in effectual vocation; above all, the justice of God in their damnation! How often are souls brought out into the peace and comfort of the love of God, and the sweet consolations of the Holy Spirit. The dead hear the voice of the Son of God, and live. Children are brought to cry, "Hosanna to the Son of David." Indeed this glorious work has been wonderful among children; and God has made instruments of them to perfect his praise in carrying on his work.

This blessed work of God has begun in Blue-Hill; but as yet has not gained the ascendency. I shall therefore come to my own dear people of Deer-Isle. And here, perhaps the work is as remarkable as at Sedgwick, but not so rapid. Not more than eight months ago it appeared to me that religion was near expiring among us, except in a very handful of professors. Deism had taken an unaccountable stride, and spread itself over a great number of the inhabitants. And now, no Bible, no Christ, but the Christian religion, and Christians, were the song of the drunkard; and every drunkard, and every vice was deemed harmless, and inoffensive to God. I had no reason to think but by the next annual meeting of the town, they would vote the Gospel out from them. When the aforementioned work at Penobscot and Mount Desert was going on, it seemed to have no influence on our people. This, you may be sure, was very grievous to me. However, I think I was enabled to bear witness to the truth with great freedom. In October, I perceived a

more close attention to the word, but nothing special as yet. After I was confined to my house, the work began to appear; and though I could not go abroad, nor preach at the meeting-house, there was seldom a day but more or less visited me under their trouble, and I preached in my own house when I was not able to stand on my feet. At length we had the assistance of Mr. E. Eaton, whom God remarkably owns. I believe there are about forty, men, women, and children, who have obtained a hope; and great numbers are under pressing conviction. The work is now on the increase. May the Lord continue and still increase it till they are all brought in. The mouth of deism is at present stopped, and against the children of Israel not so much as a dog is suffered to move his tongue. O may the Lord go on from conquering to conquer, till the whole earth shall be filled with his glory.

Thus, dear Sir, I have complied with your desire. If you think proper, you may cause the foregoing Narrative to be printed in the newspapers. Such accounts may be a mean of putting a careless people under consideration.

EXTRACT 8. *A Letter from a person in Deer-Isle, to a Society with which he is connected in Newbury-Port, dated March* 15, 1799.

Dear Friends and Brethren,

WHILE I am partaking a rich repast, I heartily desire my friends may have a share of a feast indeed. It is in vain for me to attempt to describe the wonders of the love and grace of God manifested in a marvellous manner among us, and in the adjacent parts. It has pleased God to visit us by the out-pouring of his blessed Spirit, so that even opposers acknowledge it to be the work of God, of whom some of the greatest have been (I hope) savingly wrought upon.

This blessed and glorious work first began in a small neighbourhood that have lived in a careless and negligent manner as to the attendance on the means of grace: The head of the first family that was wrought upon, is a man of about sixty years of age: I never saw him at meeting but twice since I lived on the island, before this winter: God

has been pleased to visit him and his wife, and they both appear to be humble Christians, with several others of that family. The work is daily increasing and spreading through the town; there were 4 or 5 brought into the light under one sermon this week; there have 19 persons come forward and made a public profession of religion, and joined the Church already, and nearly as many more profess to have a hope.

This work has been more extensive in Sedgwick: I am credibly informed it has visited every house for 14 miles, and about one hundred souls are hopefully converted. What shall we say to these things? Let us adore the free grace of our blessed God and Saviour. I think there is great encouragement for all that love our Lord, and have an interest at the throne of grace, to plead with God to spread this glorious work. Let us all adore and praise his name for his wonderful works to the sons of men. I bless God that he has given me to see such glorious days of the Son of Man. It has been a Sabbath to me all this winter; I have enjoyed a continual feast, and find it good to wait on God. I had rather be a door-keeper in his house, than to dwell in the tents of sin.

O that it would please God to cause a glorious shower of divine grace to descend upon you. My soul longs for your salvation, that every member of your little society may be a partaker of the heavenly grace; may this be a mean of stirring you up, and engaging your hearts in the things of God. Let not worldly cares turn your attention from this most important concern: Not only our present but everlasting happiness lies here.

EXTRACT 9. *A letter written by Mrs. A—— S——, in the District of Maine, to the Rev. I—— B——, at Middleborough.*

Litchfield, April 6, 1799.

Dear Sir,

THERE has been a wonderful out-pouring of God's Spirit in these parts this winter; especially among the youth. As many as 25 have joined this church this winter, who are not more than 20 years old; and one lad who was but nine. I believe there is not one house missed for seven or eight miles, but what the Lord has taken some out of ev-

ery family. And one family, who but a few years ago were in open oppoſition to this cauſe, 7 out of 11 have now profeſſed to know Jeſus Chriſt and the power of his reſurrection; one of whom was baptized laſt Lord's day. And while we were by the water ſide, the power of the Lord came down like the ruſhing of a mighty wind. One young woman was ſo ſtruck with a ſenſe of her duty, that ſhe could not ſtand on her feet. The people ſeeing her faulter, thought ſhe was faint; but ſhe ſaid, No, no; her friends were in ſuch oppoſition to the Baptiſts, that ſhe had never ſaid any thing openly about religion.—In the afternoon inſtead of a ſermon ſhe told her exerciſes, and two more, who were baptized the ſame day. We thought the reformation was almoſt over in this place; but we find the Lord has not forſaken us; bleſſed be his name, he is ſtill giving us a taſte of his love.

EXTRACT 10. *Another letter, dated Bowdoinham, April 29, 1799, from the Rev. J—— M—— to the ſame, contains the following.*

SINCE our laſt aſſociation, elder William Stinſon, who is ordained over the firſt church in Litchfield, has baptized 118. The greateſt part of them belong to that town. The winter before laſt there was the moſt powerful work in Bowdoin that I ever ſaw ſince I came into theſe parts. It prevailed through the town. Elder Potter baptized 22 in one day. And it was as powerful in Litchfield laſt winter; Elder Stinſon baptized 13 there in one day. Theſe were two as cold winters as were ever known here. The work has now begun in this town. Six perſons have lately manifeſted a change of heart; two of them are my children. The work ſtill prevails.

EXTRACT 11. *A young Lady from the ſame place, writes as follows.*

THE 6th day of laſt February, I was taken as it were out of the belly of hell, and my feet ſet upon a rock, and a new ſong put into my mouth, even praiſe to the Moſt High. The heavens, which I before thought wore a gloomy aſpect, now ſeemed to glitter with the glory of God. And the animal creation ſeemed jointly to whiſper praiſes to their Crea-

tor. This new ſcene reminded me of man in his firſt happy ſtate. In this frame I had a view of the juſtice of God, and of Chriſt's ſufferings, which I can deſcribe to none but thoſe who have drank of the ſame fountain. February 9th, I was enabled to follow my bleſſed Saviour into the water; but I have ſince been brought to feel that I am nothing, and to abhor myſelf.*

EXTRACT 12. *From the Rev. J—— D——, in Nova-Scotia, to his friend in Boſton, dated Halifax, May 25, 1799.*

Dear Brother,

NOTWITHSTANDING many complaints as to the ſtate of religion in ſome parts; yet God is marvellouſly viſiting ſeveral townſhips with the ſhowers of his grace. In Annapolis County the following places have ſhared largely, viz. Granville, Willmouth, Nictau, and Aylesford. In King's County, Horton and Cornwallis have been wonderfully viſited. Sinners have been converted to God, and Chriſtians to their duty. Two Pedo-baptiſt Miniſters have been baptized, and a great many young converts. The three laſt ſacramental occaſions, I think there were baptized, the 1ſt. thirteen—the 2d. twenty-ſeven—the 3d. twenty-eight.

There are alſo ſome favourable ſymptoms among the Dutch people at Lunenburgh. Many of them that had been violent oppoſers of religion, having ſpent all their arrows, ſay they will fight no more. Some are under very ſerious impreſſions, and a few hopefully converted.

EXTRACT 13. *Containing a further account of the ſame work, in a Letter from the Rev. T—— H. C——, to his friend in Boſton, dated Annapolis, July 15, 1799.*

Dear Sir,

I AM confident you will be glad to hear of the advancement of Chriſt's kingdom, though by an unſkilful hand. Therefore ſhall attempt to give you ſome account of what God has done among us. The Fall after I was laſt at Boſ-

* The firſt church in the Bowdoinham aſſociation was conſtituted in May, 1784, and now they have 29 churches and 1353 members.

ton, it pleaſed God to viſit our Society, at the lower part of Granville; it was a bleſſed time of God's power, and additions were made to the Church. A year ago laſt January, God began to viſit us here, and in our Society at Willmouth, where I preach a third part of my time. It has been a moſt aſtoniſhing time of God's power, ſuch as I never knew before. I cannot give you a full deſcription of it. I have been frequently called out of my bed at night to viſit diſtreſſed ſouls. They have ſometimes been brought from the deepeſt diſtreſs to ſhout the praiſes of the living God. My four eldeſt children, I doubt not are made partakers of grace divine. Two of them are baptized. Since the work began, I have baptized 173 perſons (in about thirteen months) but not all in our church. Cornwallis and Horton have ſhared largely with us. I have baptized two of our Miniſters * laſt ſummer, and am to baptize another as ſoon as I can go where he lives.

Our Congregations have increaſed greatly. Laſt year we built a new Meeting-Houſe at the upper end of Granville, where I preach a third part of my time, and this ſummer we have enlarged it twenty feet. O that we may never be high-minded, but fear.

EXTRACT 14. *From a Miniſter in Connecticut, to his friend in Boſton.*

Lyme, June 30, 1799.

Dear Brother in Chriſt,

ACCORDING to your deſire, I will endeavour to deſcribe ſome of the effects of the glorious work of God in this place, the preceeding Fall and Winter. Previous to which, I muſt inform you, there was a great ſtupidity on the minds of our brethren, who appeared to dwell in their ceiled houſes while the houſe of God lay waſte. There were a few drops in the month of Auguſt; but on the firſt Lord's-day in September, many began to be alarmed; we therefore thought it our duty to appoint a day of faſting and prayer, which was on the ſeventh day of the ſame month.—There was an univerſal ſolemnity, and profound attention obſerved on the face of the aſſembly, which exceeded any thing I ev-

* This Connexion or Aſſociation was formed of Pedo and Anti-pedo-baptiſts.

or ſaw before.—It was a faſt day indeed. The ſaints aroſe by confeſſion of the infinite evil of ſin,—with fixed reſolution to live a new life.—And in the cloſe of the day (like St. Paul) they thanked God, and took courage. After this our meetings increaſed, and the bleſſed effuſions of the Holy Spirit were diſtilled upon us. It was affecting to behold the ſaints exhorting; backſliders returning; and poor ſinners crying for mercy. On the firſt Lord's-day in October we attended on the ordinance of baptiſm. My poor ſoul was warmed with the love of God, which made me ſpeak from the heart, and it reached the hearts of my brethren, and the dear aſſembly; and we felt the union of the Trinity ſurrounding us, when approaching the Lord's table.

After this, conferences increaſed. My brethren were much engaged in prayer to God for the out-pouring of his Spirit. At ſome of our conferences there was a great ſolemnity upon the youth and children; one of whom mourned that ſhe had lived in ſin twelve years, till ſhe thought ſhe was become an old ſinner; but it pleaſed God at this time to reveal Chriſt to her and many others, and to give them the hope of glory.

On the firſt Lord's-day in November, I baptized two.—It was a good ſeaſon. The ninth of this month, was a memorable night! The Lord glorioufly manifeſted his power and love in bringing three perſons into the clear liberty of the Goſpel; one of whom was my fifth child, who I truſt is brought into the kingdom of Chriſt, and who in her experience relates, (like Mary) that ſhe had a diſcovery of him in the garden, and cried out, Rabboni! Another in agony of ſoul, alſo cried out, "If I do go to hell, I will go begging for mercy!" and her diſtreſs rolled on to ſuch a degree, that ſhe left her chamber the latter part of the night, and paſſed into a burying yard, and fell on her knees in ſharp diſtreſs, till the kind Lord revealed himſelf to her in a wonderful manner. The third was a woman, near forty years of age, who gave a clear relation of the love of God in her ſoul from day to day. We now ſaw, both in the houſe of God and in our own houſes, the ſweet whiſpers of the bleſſed Dove; and ſtout-hearted ſinners bowing to the ſceptre of the great Emanuel.

The firſt of December, was our Covenant Meeting preceding the Lord's-day, and which was taken up in hearing the relations of candidates. A number more related their

exercises the day following; and notwithstanding it was a very severe snow-storm, twelve were baptized, a number of whom were youths from ten to fifteen years of age. The saints in general were animated with the love of God, and were mighty in prayer for precious souls, triumphing over the united powers of darkness. Indeed it is almost beyond my power to give a full description of this wonderful scene. It is also to be remarked that our brethren of the Presbyterian order and other denominations joined with us in promoting the cause of our blessed Redeemer. About this time, meetings on week-days were attended to, for receiving candidates, and attending to baptism; and through the severity of this tedious winter, I have not heard any one complain or shrink at the cross, on account of the coldness of the weather.

This work has been gloriously carried on in the spirit of love. In the first part of it, there was great outcrying, but it gradually subsided into a free deliberate conversation on the dreadful situation they were in by nature; and their full determination to continue seeking till they should find him of whom Moses and the prophets did write. I never saw less opposition in any work of God I ever was acquainted with.

The principal part of this work, was in this society; but it has spread into others in the neighbouring towns. More than a hundred we hope have received the grace of God; and more than eighty have joined with the Church under my watch care.

When I consider the great number of souls committed to my charge and my own insufficiency, my heart shrinks within me; but all my hope is in the great Head of the Church. My daily prayer is that he would grant me his grace as an under Shepherd, to discharge my duty towards God and my dear Flock, during the few remains of life.

The number of members under my care at present, is three hundred and thirty-six.

INFORMATION, though not very correct, has also been received from a number of towns in Cheshire County, in New-Hampshire, of a very pleasing and extensive reformation there.

The following towns are said to have shared largely in it, viz. Unity, Marlow, Lemster, Alstead, Ackwort[illegible]Cornish, and Plainfield, with some others in that neighb[illegible]hood.

The towns of Stratham and New-market, in New-Hampshire, are favoured at this time with like revivals; but for want of accurate documents, a particular account cannot be given.

If the repentance of one sinner causes joy in heaven among the angels of God, what shouts of immortal praise must have echoed through all the realms of bliss, upon the accession of such numbers to the Redeemer's kingdom!

O Lord, may thy kingdom come, and thy will be done, on earth as in heaven, for Christ's sake. Amen.

A Letter to a Gentleman in New-England.

London, April 3, 1799.

Dear Sir,

I AM concerned at the length of time which has elapsed since I wrote you last; but the truth of the matter is, I have been waiting from day to day, and from month to month, to obtain intelligence that might be worth the postage, as I have long expected the publication of the Missionary Journal, which would have furnished me with many interesting anecdotes. It has not yet come out, and therefore I have only written you now as a sort of promissory note, to assure you that you shall soon have a long, and I am sure I may venture to say, very acceptable letter, which I hope will cause the thanksgiving of many to abound.

I sincerely thank you, Sir, for exerting yourself to obtain a missionary prayer meeting at Vassalborough; the news of it, as well as your other communications, has rejoiced several pious friends to whom I have mentioned it, and it will shortly be announced to the public through the medium of the Evangelical Magazine.

I hope it will not be long before I write to the ministers you mentioned, as I shall feel it a peculiar privilege to correspond with such men as you describe them to be. You cannot imagine what pleasure it afforded me to hear of their going into the wilderness to win souls to Christ. Pray give my love to them, and tell them I know no party distinctions; every one who loves Jesus, and pities poor sinners, is my friend and my brother. O Sir, the time is coming, it is near, when every partition-wall will be pulled down, and all Israel's watchmen will see eye to eye. In this respect, things go on gloriously with us. We now see half a dozen ministers, of as many different denominations, engaging in the

ſame ſervice, with expreſſions of the moſt cordial affection to each other; men who, a few years ago, through bigotry, regarded each other as ſtern foes. The flame has reached Scotland alſo. Warm affection, lively zeal, and increaſing ſpirituality have ſucceeded the frigid orthodoxy for which poor Scotland has of late years been too famous. There are many adverſaries, but that muſt be expected.

Your favourite, dear Rowland Hill, has been preaching at Edinburgh, Glaſgow, &c. but you may ſuppoſe the Kirk doors were ſoon cloſed againſt him; ſo he took the right Methodiſt way of ſtreet and field preaching; and in his odd, good-natured way, he ſays, "Scotland has good churches and good parſons, but the worſt of all is, the devil is their door-keeper." His labours have been eminently bleſſed, inſomuch that many thouſands in Edinburgh deſired a place where ſuch preaching might be coptinued to them. They engaged a ſpacious theatre, called the Circus, which is ſaid to hold above ſeven thouſand people; have conſtituted it on the Tabernacle plan, and have given it the new good name of "The Edinburgh Tabernacle;" and indeed Tabernacles are opening throughout Scotland. It may be neceſſary to acquaint you what is meant by the "Tabernacle plan"—It always ſuppoſes a regular miniſter, and a variety of viſiting miniſters, with a hearty welcome to every miniſter who may occaſionally be upon the ſpot. This plan affords variety, exhibits love, and deſtroys petty diſtinctions and party ſpirit.

Diſtracted Ireland has likewiſe had a call. In Dublin and other places, evangelical preachers meet with encouragement. Mr. Hill has been there; and Mr. Cooper, a zealous young man who is uncommonly popular, is now going; may the Lord go with him, and make him a bleſſing to many.

You love anecdotes, I know; ſhall I give you another? When Rowland Hill was in Ireland laſt year, the Papiſts had reſolved to murder him the next time he ſhould preach out of doors. He was apprized of it, and his friends wiſhed him to decline preaching. It was all to no purpoſe; come life or death, he declared he would preach. At the appointed time, thouſands were aſſembled, vowing his deſtruction as ſoon as he ſhould begin. They waited—no preacher appeared—their patience was almoſt exhauſted. At laſt a man in a large coachman's coat mixed with the crowd—inquired what they were waiting for—told them he was ſorry they ſhould be diſappointed—would try if he could preach;

but perhaps they would kill him? They applauded him—aſſured him of protection—and he began.——It was Rowland Hill himſelf! and it is believed many were converted at that time. Methinks I hear you ſay to this, Hallelujah, Praiſe the Lord.

Our Biſhops too are growing like good Biſhop Burnet, and are charging their clergy to outlive, outpray, and outpreach us. To this I add my hearty Amen.

Though I can give you but an imperfect account of Miſſionary Concerns at preſent, it will gratify you to preſent you with an outline of their proceedings. You anxiouſly wait for an account of their voyage, and wiſh to know how they were received at Otaheite. Believe me, dear Sir, all has exceeded our moſt ſanguine expectations. Their voyage was one unbroken chain of mercies! No ſickneſs—no death—no diſcontent. The remarkable providences they witneſſed were ſo many and ſo great, that I know not what to record or what to omit. The elements were controlled for their ſakes; they experienced no ſtorms! When under a vertical ſun, they were ſcreened from its ſcorching rays by intervening clouds, ſuch as the ſailors declared they had never before witneſſed. And when the ſhip returned home, her ſails and rigging were in the beſt condition imaginable. One danger (and that a ſerious one) they encountered near one of the South-Sea Iſlands. The ſhip ſtruck upon a coral reef, which cauſed ſerious apprehenſions; but ſhe was got off without any injury, as they then ſuppoſed, though the bottom being examined after ſhe came home, it was diſcovered to be ſo torn by the rocks, that, had they met with [illegible] on their homeward paſſage, ſhe certainly muſt have foundered at ſea.

You will eaſily recollect that we thought their chief difficulty would be in acquiring a knowledge of the Otaheitan language; but that Jehovah Jeſus who ſent them forth had provided interpreters beforehand. There were, on the different iſlands where Miſſions were to be eſtabliſhed, ſeveral European men, who had been ſhipwrecked at different times, and ſome others, who, when ſhips touched at the iſlands, had left the veſſels, and concealed themſelves among the natives: Theſe men were highly ſerviceable.

Another difficulty we ſuppoſed would ariſe from the want of a dwelling-place; for the females eſpecially. Will it be called enthuſiaſm if I ſay, God had alſo built them a houſe?

Truly it cannot—will not. Capt. Bligh visited these islands some few years since; when he left them, so attached were the Natives to him, that they would not part with him till they obtained an intimation that he might perhaps re-visit them at a future period. Encouraged to expect him again, they set about building a house for his reception, 100 feet long and 40 wide. It was just completed when the Mission ship arrived, and had been named, The English House. It was situated in a district called Matavia, unquestionably the best part of the Island, and which the Society had enjoined the Missionaries to obtain a formal grant of, if possible. No sooner had they landed, and made their intentions of settling upon the Island known, through the medium of these interpreters, than his Otaheitan Majesty made them a present of the house, and the whole district; and such was the care and attention of the Natives to the Missionaries, that they brought them every day a sufficient supply of provisions, and in all respects studied their inclinations and necessities.

The wife of one of the Missionaries was delivered of a female child just before their arrival. When Pomanu (the King) saw the child, he was so delighted with it, he would have it called, My Deedee Taheite, which is, The Otaheitan Child. The High Priest, who is cordially their friend, says he is too old to learn himself, but is glad they are come to teach the people better; for that Pretanes (Britain's) God is the best in the world. My friend Mr. Cover preached the first sermon. Pomanu and his chiefs, with many of the people, attended; he took care to make his subjects behave well during service, and afterwards said it was *good—good*—but could not learn all at once—might he come again? The Natives ask when they will throw away Pretanes tongue, and speak like them. The Missionaries have been honoured as the instruments of saving several lives which were devoted as human sacrifices, and have obtained a solemn promise that that barbarous practice shall forever cease. Ten Missionaries are settled at Tongatoboo, and one at the Marquesas, by his own consent; indeed the Natives were so fond of him that they would not part with him. Capt. Wilson re-visited each of the Missions previous to his return to England, I think nearly 5 months afterwards. Schools were then formed, and many children had acquired a complete knowledge of the alphabet, and every thing wore the most pleasing appearance. I have now to tell you that other Missions are prepared. The

Duff is again on her way to the South Seas. Miſs Wilks is married to a Miſſionary, and they are gone in her for Otaheite. The liberality of the Britiſh Chriſtians ſuffers no decay. I have ſeen a letter from one of the Miſſionaries, dated, I believe, from Plymouth, and he ſays, "if we ſtay here much longer, the Society had better fit out a ſecond ſhip to carry our ſtores."

Dr. Vanderkempt, a Dutch Phyſician of great erudition and piety, came from Holland to offer himſelf as a Miſſionary, though in the decline of life. He brought a young Dutchman with him on the ſame errand: they, with two Engliſhmen, form a Miſſion to the Chaffree Country in Africa; and are, if poſſible, to ſketch to Madagaſcar alſo. Theſe went out in a Convict ſhip from choice, hoping to be ſerviceable to the poor wretches on their voyage, and took with them a great number of Bibles. Theſe Miſſions ſailed in company with a great number of other ſhips under convoy. At firſt they had tolerable weather, but met with a terrible ſtorm off the Madeiras. The ſhip in which Dr. Vanderkempt was, ſuffered prodigiouſly; the night was dreadful indeed; all the pumps were at work, and yet the water gained upon them. At laſt, the Captain came to the Miſſionaries, and told them it was in vain to diſſemble—all hope was over—and he every moment expected the ſhip would go down. The Miſſionaries were happy in God, and the young Dutchman came to Dr. Vanderkempt, and ſaid with great pleaſure, "well Sir, the ſhip may go down, but *our foundation* cannot ſink." They went to prayer and committed one another to God—it was then diſcovered that one of the port-holes was open, and was the only cauſe of the ſhip's filling; as ſoon as it was ſhut, they applied to the pumps with double alacrity, and by morning-light were out of danger: and judge what muſt have been their pleaſure, to ſee the little Duff cloſe to them uninjured. This is the laſt intelligence we have received from them. I have now given you all the intelligence my paper will allow.

May grace, mercy and peace reſt upon you, with every new covenant mercy—ſo prays yours affectionately,

E. J. J.

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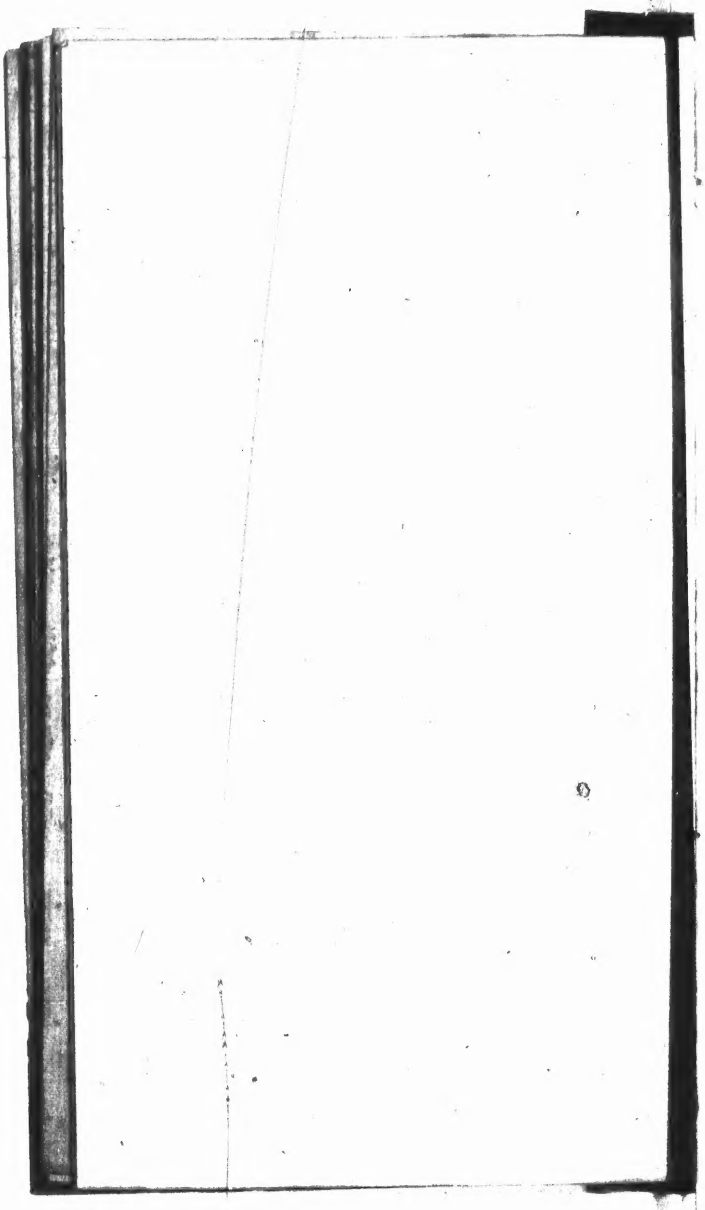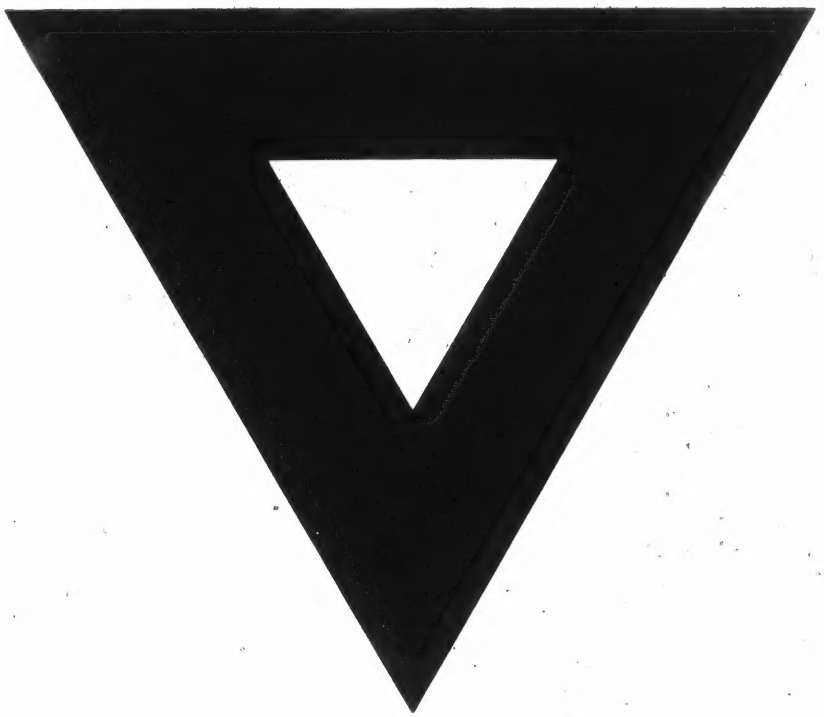
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